7. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

8. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

9. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing tiger reserve specific Tiger Conservation Plan', addressing issues relating to tiger (in the core/critical area) and people (in the buffer/ fringe area).

10. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing reserve-wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.

11. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by States under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation of tiger, copredators and prey animals.

Sewage flow into rivers

2670. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set itself an ambitious target of ensuring that no sewage is drained into the 45,000 Km. river length of India by 2011-12;

(b) whether this proposal comes on the heels of a move initiated by the PMO to revamp the Rs. 3,000 crore National River Conservation Plan;

(c) whether plan covers 34 rivers and 160 towns in 20 States and has completed almost a decade of operation with questionable results; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Domestic sewage is one of the major sources of pollution in rivers. Development and maintenance of a proper sewerage system in towns and cities is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments and Urban Local Bodies. Central Government is only supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for creation of the sewerage infrastructure for preventing the discharge of untreated sewage in the rivers. On the basis of proposals received from the State Governments, projects for construction of sewerage system and setting up of sewage treatment plants in various towns are assisted under the Central Sponsored Schemes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, as well as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) of the Ministry of Urban Development.

The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) presently covers pollution abatement works in 35 rivers spread over 164 towns in 20 States of the country at an approved cost of Rs. 4863.75 crore. With the pollution abatement works completed so far in both the phases under Ganga Action Plan (GAP), the water quality of the river Ganga has shown discrenible

improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality as per the water qulity monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions of the country. A total sewage treatment capacity of 1759 mid. (million litres per day) has been created so far for Ganga and its tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda. As regards Yamuna, the quality of river water has not shown the desired improvement owning to the large gap between the demand and the availability of the sewage treatment capacity particularly in Delhi, and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river. Due to continuous increase in the population of the towns located along the banks of the rivers resulting in increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the tackled pollution load and the actual pollution load.

Preliminary meetings have been held for discussing the revamping of the National River Conservation programme with concerned Ministries, independent experts in the field and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers under NRCP are continuous process aimed towards ameliorating the water quality in rivers.

Release of forest land

2671. SHRIKANJIBHAIPATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for release of 427.13 hectare of forest land coming under the submergence and environment clearance from the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal for diversion of 427.13 hectare of forest land for Sidumbar Reservoir Irrigation Project in Valsad district of Gujarat for which in-principle (stage-I) approval was accorded by the Central Government on 20.08.2004 with certain mandatory conditions. The Final (stage-II) approval is accorded only after the receipt of the compliance report from the Government of Gujarat, which is still awaited.

Pollution in Yamuna

2672. SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an interceptor and diversion scheme has been cleared with a view to cleanse Yamuna of its pollution;

(b) if so, the details in mis regard including details of expenditure, the level of cleanliness likely to be achieved and the amount already spent so far and the results achieved;

(c) the manner in which the current scheme is different from the ones implemented in the past; and

(d) whether there is any similar scheme for rest of the rivers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) According to the information provided by the